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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A digital content distributing system having a digital content distributing apparatus for distributing a digital content and an information processing apparatus for outputting a digital content distributed from the digital content distributing apparatus, wherein:

said digital content distributing apparatus comprises[[:]]

a storage device storing a digital content[[:]]_

an encryption processing device for performing an encryption process on a part of the digital content by using encryption key information shared with said information processing apparatus[[:]]_ and

a distributing device for distributing the partly encrypted digital content to said information processing apparatus, and

said information processing apparatus comprises[[:]]

an input device for inputting a digital content distributed from said digital content distributing apparatus[[:]]_

a decryption processing device for performing a decryption process on the encrypted part of the inputted

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digital content by using the encryption key information shared with said digital content distributing apparatus[[;]], and an output device for outputting the digital content ~~decrypted from the encrypted part,~~

wherein said encryption processing device of said digital content distributing apparatus ~~performs an encryption process, with a formatting unit of the digital content in plaintext taken as one unit, on a part of the units as a subject of encryption processing~~ encrypts a part of a formatted data unit of the digital content so that said information processing apparatus displays the digital content contaminated in a spotted or striped manner on said output device without decryption.

2. (Currently amended) A digital content distributing system having a digital content distributing apparatus for distributing a digital content and an information processing apparatus for outputting a digital content distributed from the digital content distributing apparatus, wherein:

said digital content distributing apparatus comprises[[:]]

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a storage device storing a digital content partly encrypted by using encryption key information shared with said information processing apparatus[[]], and

a distributing device for distributing the stored digital content to said information processing apparatus[[]]; and

said information processing apparatus comprises[[]]

an input device for inputting a digital content distributed from said digital content distributing apparatus[[]],

a decryption processing device for performing a decryption process on an encrypted part of the inputted digital content by using the encryption key information shared with said digital content distributing apparatus[[]], and

an output device for outputting the digital content ~~decrypted from the encrypted part,~~

wherein a part of formatted data unit of the digital content stored by said storage device of said digital content distributing apparatus is encrypted with a formatting unit of the digital content in plaintext taken as one unit, on a part of the units as a subject of encryption so that the information processing apparatus displays the digital content

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contaminated in a spotted or striped manner on said output device without decryption.

3. (Currently amended) A method for distributing a digital content from a digital content distributing apparatus to an information processing apparatus, in a digital content distributing system having the digital content distributing apparatus for distributing the digital content and the information processing apparatus for outputting the digital content distributed from the digital content distributing apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:

distributing, by said digital content distributing apparatus a partly encrypted digital content which is encrypted by using encryption key information shared with said information processing apparatus, to said information processing apparatus; and

performing a decryption process using the encryption key information on an encrypted part of the digital content distributed from said digital content distributing apparatus by said information processing device;

wherein a part of formatted data unit of the digital content distributed by said digital content distributing apparatus is encrypted, ~~with a formatting unit of the digital~~

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~~content in plaintext taken as one unit, on a part of the units~~
~~as a subject of encryption so that the information processing~~
~~apparatus displays the digital content contaminated in a~~
~~spotted or striped manner on an output device of said~~
~~information processing apparatus without a decryption.~~

4. (Currently amended) A method for distributing a
digital content ~~distributing method~~ according to claim 3,
wherein, ~~in the case that~~ when the digital content ~~in~~
~~plaintext~~ is JPEG data formatted by a JPEG (Joint Photographic
Experts Group) scheme, ~~the JPEG data is encrypted, with a the~~
part of formatted data unit means some compression unit ~~block~~
blocks, each block comprising 8 pixels x 8 pixels ~~as one unit,~~
~~on a part of compression unit blocks.~~

5. (Currently amended) A method for distributing a
digital content ~~distributing method~~ according to claim 3,
wherein, ~~in the case that~~ when the digital content ~~in~~
~~plaintext~~ is JPEG data formatted by a JPEG (Joint Photographic
Experts Group) scheme, ~~the JPEG data is encrypted, with a the~~
part of formatted data unit means either higher frequency
region or lower frequency region in one or more compression
unit ~~block~~ blocks, each block comprising 8 pixels x 8 pixels

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~~taken as one unit, in a part of or the entire of compression unit blocks, a high frequency region or a low frequency region within each block.~~

6. (Currently amended) A method for distributing a digital content distributing method according to claim 3, wherein, ~~in the case that~~ when the digital content in ~~plaintext~~ is MPEG data formatted by a MPEG (Moving Picture Experts Group) scheme, the part of formatted data unit means one or more frames in the MPEG data is encrypted, with one frame taken as one unit, on a part of or the entire of one group selected from a group of frames compressed with using correlation between the frames and a group of frames compressed without using correlation between the frames.

7. (Currently amended) A method for distributing a digital content distributing method according to claim 3, wherein, ~~in the case that~~ when the digital content in ~~plaintext~~ is sound data sampled ~~based on~~ by respective frequency component ranges and individually encoded to respective units, the part of formatted data unit means the sound data is encrypted, with an encoded unit sample taken as one unit, with respect to a high higher frequency component

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~~sample unit~~ or ~~low~~ lower frequency component ~~sample unit~~ for
the whole sound data.

8. (Currently amended) A digital content distributing apparatus comprising:

a storage device storing a digital content;

an encryption processing device for performing an encryption process on a part of the digital content by using encryption key information shared with an information processing apparatus which is to be a destination of distribution of the digital content; and

a distributing device for distributing the partly encrypted digital content to said information processing apparatus;

wherein said encryption processing device ~~performs an encryption process, with a formatting unit of the digital content in plaintext taken as one unit, on a part of the units as a subject of encryption processing~~ encrypts a part of formatted data unit of the digital content so that said information processing apparatus displays the digital content contaminated in a spotted or striped manner on an output device of said information processing apparatus without a decryption.

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9. (Currently amended) A digital content distributing apparatus comprising:

a storage device storing a digital content partly encrypted by using encryption key information shared with an information processing apparatus which is to be a destination of distribution; and

a distributing device for distributing the stored digital content to said information processing apparatus;

wherein a part of formatted data unit of the digital content stored by said storage device is encrypted, with a formatting unit of the digital content in plaintext taken as one unit, on a part of the units as a subject of encryption so that said information processing apparatus displays the digital content contaminated in a spotted or striped manner on an output device of said information processing apparatus without a decryption.

10. (Currently amended) A digital content distributing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein, ~~in the case that when~~ the digital content ~~in plaintext~~ is JPEG data formatted by a JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) scheme, ~~the JPEG data is encrypted, with a~~ the part of formatted data unit means

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some compression unit block blocks, each block comprises
comprising 8 pixels x 8 pixels taken as one unit, on a part of
blocks.

11. (Currently amended) A digital content distributing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein, ~~in the case that when~~ the digital content ~~in plaintext~~ is JPEG data formatted by a JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) scheme, ~~the JPEG data is encrypted, with a~~ the part of formatted data unit means some compression unit block blocks, each block comprises comprising 8 pixels x 8 pixels taken as one unit, on a part of blocks.

12. (Currently amended) A ~~digital content distributing~~ method ~~according to claim 8~~ for distributing a digital content from a digital content distributing apparatus,

wherein, said digital content distributing apparatus comprises a storage device storing a digital content, an encryption processing device for performing an encryption process on a part of the digital content by using encryption key information shared with an information processing apparatus which is to be a destination of distribution of the digital content, and a distributing device for distributing

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the partly encrypted digital content to said information processing apparatus,

the method comprising the step of:

said encryption processing device encrypting a part of formatted data unit of the digital content so that said information processing apparatus displays the digital content contaminated in a spotted or striped manner on an output device of said information processing apparatus without decryption,

wherein in the case that the part of formatted data unit of the digital content in plaintext is JPEG data formatted by a JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) scheme, the JPEG data upon encryption is encrypted, with a and the part of formatted data unit means either higher frequency region or lower frequency region in one or more compression unit block blocks taken as one unit, in a part of or the entire of blocks, on a high frequency region or low frequency region within each block.

13. (Currently amended) A digital content distributing method according to claim 9 for distributing a digital content from a distributing apparatus,

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wherein, said distributing apparatus comprises a storage device storing a digital content partly encrypted by using encryption key information shared with an information processing apparatus which is to be a destination of distribution, and a distributing device for distributing the stored digital content to said information processing apparatus,

the method comprising the step of:

a part of formatted data unit of the digital content stored by said storage device being encrypted a part of formatted data unit of the digital content stored by said storage device so that said information processing apparatus displays the digital content contaminated in a spotted or striped manner on an output device of said information processing apparatus without decryption,

wherein in the case that the part of formatted data unit of the digital content in plaintext is JPEG data formatted by a JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) scheme, the JPEG data upon encryption is encrypted, with a and the part of formatted data unit means either higher frequency region or lower frequency region in one or more compression unit block blocks taken as one unit, in a part of or the entire of

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~~blocks, on a high frequency region or low frequency region within each block.~~

14. (Currently amended) ~~A digital content distributing method according to claim 8 for distributing a digital content from a digital content distributing apparatus,~~

wherein, said digital content distributing apparatus comprises a storage device storing a digital content, an encryption processing device for performing an encryption process on a part of the digital content by using encryption key information shared with an information processing apparatus which is to be a destination of distribution of the digital content, and a distributing device for distributing the partly encrypted digital content to said information processing apparatus, the method comprising the step of:

said encryption processing device encrypting a part of formatted data unit of the digital content so that said information processing apparatus displays the digital content contaminated in a spotted or striped manner on an output device of said information processing apparatus without decryption,

wherein in the case that the part of formatted data unit of the digital content in plaintext is MPEG data formatted by

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a MPEG (Moving Picture Experts Group) scheme, and the part of formatted data unit means one or more frames in the MPEG data ~~is encrypted, with one frame taken as one unit, on a part of or the entire of~~ one group selected from a group of frames compressed with using correlation between the frames and a group of frames compressed without using correlation between the frames.

15. (Currently amended) ~~A digital content distributing method according to claim 9 for distributing a digital content from a digital content distributing apparatus,~~

wherein, said digital content distributing apparatus having a storage device storing a digital content partly encrypted by using encryption key information shared with an information processing apparatus which is to be a destination of distribution, and a distributing device for distributing the stored digital content to said information processing apparatus,

the method comprising the step of:

a part of formatted data unit of the digital content stored by said storage device being encrypted so that said information processing apparatus displays the digital content contaminated in a spotted or striped manner on an output

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device of said information processing apparatus without decryption,

wherein in the case that the part of formatted data unit
of the digital content in plaintext is MPEG data formatted by
a MPEG (Moving Picture Experts Group) scheme, and the part of
formatted data unit means one or more frames in the MPEG data
is encrypted, with one frame taken as one unit, on a part of
or the entire of one group selected from a group of frames
compressed with using correlation between the frames and a
group of frames compressed without using correlation between
the frames.

16. (Currently amended) An information processing
apparatus for outputting a digital content distributed from
the digital content distributing apparatus according to claim
8, said information processing apparatus comprising:

an input device for inputting a digital content
distributed from said digital content distributing apparatus;

a decryption processing device for performing a
decryption process on an encrypted part of the inputted
digital content by using the encryption key information shared
with said digital content distributing apparatus; and

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an output device for outputting the digital content decrypted from the encrypted part.

17. (Currently amended) An information processing apparatus for outputting a digital content distributed from the digital content distributing apparatus according to claim 9, said information processing apparatus comprising:

an input device for inputting a digital content distributed from said digital content distributing apparatus;

a decryption processing device for performing a decryption process on an encrypted part of the inputted digital content by using the encryption key information shared with said digital content distributing apparatus; and

an output device for outputting the digital content decrypted from the encrypted part.

18. (Currently amended) A recording medium having recorded therein a digital content, wherein a part of formatted data unit of the digital content is encrypted, with a formatting unit of the digital content in plaintext taken as one unit, on a part of the units as a subject of encryption so as to display the digital content contaminated in a spotted or striped manner without a decryption.

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19. (Currently amended) A recording medium according to claim 18, having recorded therein a digital content, wherein, ~~in the case that~~ when the digital content ~~in plaintext~~ is JPEG data formatted by a JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) scheme, ~~the JPEG data is encrypted, with a~~ the part of formatted data unit means some compression unit block blocks, each block comprises comprising 8 pixels x 8 pixels taken as ~~one unit, on a part of blocks.~~

20. (Currently amended) A recording medium according to claim 18, having recorded therein a digital content, wherein, ~~in the case that~~ when the digital content ~~in plaintext~~ is JPEG data formatted by a JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) scheme, ~~the JPEG data is encrypted, with a~~ the part of formatted data unit means either higher frequency region or lower frequency region in one or more compression unit block blocks, each block comprises comprising 8 pixels x 8 pixels taken as one unit, in a part of or the entire of blocks, on a high frequency region or low frequency region within each ~~block.~~

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21. (Currently amended) A recording medium according to claim 18, having recorded therein a digital content, wherein, ~~in the case that~~ when the digital content ~~in plaintext~~ is MPEG data formatted by a MPEG (Moving Picture Experts Group) scheme, the part of formatted data unit means one or more frames in the MPEG data is encrypted, with one frame taken as one unit, on a part of or the entire of one group selected from a group of frames compressed without using correlation between the frames and a group of frames compressed with using correlation between the frames.